



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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Editor's Note: This event is open to the media. Contact the clerk of court at (415) 556-9811 to arrange for still or video photography.

NEWS RELEASE

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Court of Appeals to Honor Circuit Judge Herbert Choy with Portrait Unveiling

SAN FRANCISCO — Senior Circuit Judge Herbert Young Cho Choy, the nation's first federal judge of Asian descent and the first judge to represent Hawaii on the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, will be honored next week with the unveiling of a portrait donated to the court by his former law clerks.

The unveiling ceremony is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 8, at 4 p.m., in Courtroom One at the historic Court of Appeals, 95 Seventh St., San Francisco.

While many of Judge Choy's colleagues and friends are expected to attend, the 87-year-old jurist is unable to make the trip from his home in Honolulu. However, the ceremony will be videotaped for his benefit.

Chief Judge Mary M. Schroeder will welcome guests and make opening remarks. Also speaking are Circuit Judge Richard R. Clifton, Union Bank Executive Vice President John McGuckin and U.S. Rep. Christopher Cox of Orange County, all of whom are former law clerks of Judge Choy.

Born on Kauai to Korean immigrants who had come to work on the island's sugar plantations, Judge Choy earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Hawaii in 1938, and his J.D. from Harvard University Law School in 1941. He served with the Army Judge Advocate General during World War II. Upon leaving the service, he went into private practice in 1946, becoming the nation's first Korean-American attorney.

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Nominated to the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals by President Nixon, he was

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confirmed by the Senate in 1971, becoming the first judge from Hawaii to serve on the largest and busiest of the nation's appellate courts. He served as an active judge until 1984, when he took senior status. He continues to pursue legal research and writing, but no longer travels or hears cases.

The portrait is being donated to the court by some of Judge Choy's 70-plus former law clerks. Done in oils, the portrait was painted by renowned Scottish artist Anne Mackintosh, who relied on photographs of Judge Choy to render his likeness.

Judge Clifton followed in Judge Choy's footsteps as only the second judge from Hawaii to serve on the Court of Appeals. Judge Clifton clerked for Judge Choy from 1975 to 1976. Other former law clerks include Craig Nakamura, an assistant U.S. attorney in Honolulu, and Girard Lau, a deputy to the state attorney general of Hawaii.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals hears cases originating in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions. The court sits regularly in Seattle, San Francisco and Pasadena, and in Portland several times a year. Special sittings also are held in various locations around the circuit.

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